



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

COST ESTIMATE

September 28, 2004

H.R. 5042

A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to ensure that the dependents of employees of the Forest Service stationed in Puerto Rico receive a high-quality elementary and secondary education

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on September 23, 2004

H.R. 5042 would require the Secretary of Agriculture to cover expenses related to the education of certain dependents of Forest Service employees stationed in Puerto Rico. Those expenses would include tuition at primary and secondary schools and the cost of transporting students to those schools. The bill specifies that the Forest Service could use any funds available to the agency to pay for those costs, including permanently appropriated funds. For this estimate, CBO assumes the agency would use such funds to meet the bill's requirements, resulting in an increase in direct spending.

Based on information from the Forest Service about the number of dependents whose expenses would be covered by the agency and the typical cost of tuition and transportation, CBO estimates that H.R. 5042 would increase direct spending by about \$350,000 a year. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues. H.R. 5042 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.